



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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**FOR INFORMATION CALL
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Give Congress Time to Consider Legislation Seriously, Lantos Says

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo, San Francisco) and numerous House colleagues have joined to press the Republican House leadership to ensure that members have time to read all bills before voting on them.

“Some bad legislation was rushed to the House floor during this Congressional session, and it is important to ensure that sort of thing never happens again,” Lantos said. “Right now, House rules require a three-day waiting period before a bill can come to a vote. But the rules can be suspended on the leadership’s whim. And some bills are too consequential for that.”

“For example, members had 24 hours to consider the complex, 600-page Medicare bill a year ago,” Lantos said. “After much political wrangling that went late into the night, a slim majority of members came to the wrong conclusion and supported a bill that may result in lost benefits for many, and will close the door to lower prescription drug prices for all. We need to make sure that when legislation with such profound consequences comes before Congress, its members have a chance to consider the implications thoroughly.”

Lantos noted that for years members of Congress have shown concern about having adequate time to review bills. In 1993 the Republican leadership’s Task Force on Deliberative Democracy stated that “a bill that cannot survive a 3-day scrutiny of its provisions is a bill that should not be enacted.”

Lantos has thrown his support behind a new initiative by Congressman Brian Baird (D-WA) that would ensure that the leadership always allows three days for members to read and consider legislation before it comes to a vote.

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